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ABSTRACT

There are four library systems in Utah which provide bookmobile library service; the Salt Lake County Library, Salt Lake City Library, San Juan County Library and Utah State Library Commission. This study is limited to bookmobile library service in Utah and to librarians who first began library service. The history of bookmobiles in Utah began in 1947 when Ruth Vine Tyler suggested the need for this type of library service to the Salt Lake County Library Board. The Board purchased the first bookmobile and it began serving the public in 1949. The second library to put bookmobiles into service was the Utah State Library Commission which purchased its first bookmobile in 1958. San Juan County was the third library to purchase a bookmobile in 1959. The Salt Lake City Library began bookmobile service in 1960. Today there are nineteen bookmobiles serving nineteen of the twenty-nine Utah counties. (Author/NH)

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A HISTORY OF BOOKMOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE STATE OF UTAH

A Research Project

Submitted to the

Graduate Department of Library and Information Sciences

Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements of the

Master of Library Science Degree

by

Val L. Ball

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INTRODUCTION

Bookmobiles are relatively new in Utah. The service they provide is important to the citizens. In the past twenty-three years of their operation in this state, they have become very popular with the people. Today there are nineteen bookmobiles in service, serving nineteen of the twenty-nine counties in Utah.[1]

A fast rise in growth of bookmobile service has occurred in the past ten to fifteen years due to the improvement of library service in rural areas and to the rapid development of housing projects in the fringe areas of the cities, where shifting of the population suggests a fluid library service.[2]

It has been sixty-seven years since the first book wagon started on its way. Little has appeared in print on the history of bookmobile library service. Bookmobile service today is for the most part modern and progressive.

An exchange of surveys and studies among libraries is needed. A more comprehensive history is also needed. How well the bookmobiles of tomorrow fulfill their function as a

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[1]An Annual Report, 1970 Utah Public Library Service (Salt Lake City: State Library Commission, 1970), p. 6.

[2]Dorothy Strouse, The PLD Reporter Bookmobile Service Today (Chicago: American Library Association, 1958), p. 1.

social and educational force depends upon studies and the free exchange of ideas.[1]

There are four library systems in Utah which provide bookmobile library service; the Salt Lake County Library, Salt Lake City Library, San Juan County Library and Utah State Library Commission. The Utah State Library Commission contracts bookmobile library service with seventeen counties. Even though there has been a rapid increase in bookmobile service there has been very little published concerning the history of bookmobile library service in the State of Utah. As yet, a comprehensive publication on the history of bookmobile library service in Utah, has not been found.

The subject was approached through gathering information from the various libraries which have bookmobile services. The Salt Lake City Libary had a few news articles relating to their bookmobile operation. Mrs. Ruth Vine Tyler has written a book, Salt Lake County Library System History, 1938-1969, from which some information was collected. A search through the publication entitled Horsefeathers, published by the Utah State Library Commission, was made for information regarding bookmobile service of the State Library. To make this history more complete, it became necessary to interview the librarians of the various libraries that use bookmobiles. This study is limited to bookmobile library

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[1]Eleanor Frances Brown, Bookmobiles and Bookmobile Service (Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1967), p. 369.

service in Utah. It is also limited to librarians who first began library service and does not include all librarians who have worked on bookmobiles.

CHAPTER I

THE EARLY BEGINNINGS OF BOOKMOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Bringing books and people together by means of a bookmobile is the most dramatic of all types of library services. Bookmobiles are found traveling over lonely, sometimes almost impassable county back roads and over the smooth pavements of busy city streets. In some areas, where they have served their purpose, they will disappear from the scene but will reappear in areas of greater need.

The term "bookmobile" means "books in motion." When books are taken from a library and sent to patrons we have what is called "bookmobile service." Mobility is not limited to wheels.[1]

Before bookmobiles appeared in the State of Utah, books were circulated by mail to various interested patrons. Automobiles were loaded with books and taken to a community store in Orderville and the post office in Dutch John for distribution to the people of the communities.[2]

The idea of bookmobile service in the State of Utah began early in 1947 when Mrs. Ruth Vine Tyler of the Salt

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[1]Brown, Bookmobiles and Bookmobile Service, p. 1.

[2]Rosemary Cundiff, Private interview held at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, April, 1971.

Lake County Library proposed purchase of a bookmobile. She reported that she had attended many sessions at the American Library Association Convention concerning their value in rural areas, and she thought the vehicle would make a good addition to their library.[1]

The first bookmobile chassis was delivered to Williamsen Body and Equipment Company at Ogden. They built the upper part of the body and it was delivered to the library in November, 1948. Soon after delivery, the first bookmobile was put into service throughout the small communities of Salt Lake County, (see figure two, page twenty-three). Ralph Voyce drove this first bookmobile and the following people served as librarians at different times: Stella Gessiman, Lala Johansen, Mary Freeman, June Swenson and Lucille Grover. The service was a success and the bookmobile was used extensively.[2]

The bookmobile driver and librarian had an exciting experience in July, 1953. The bookmobile was parked on a hill in the mining area of Lark, when two little boys decided to see if the puddle under the bookmobile was water or gasoline. They struck a match and then threw it into the puddle. It was not long until the vehicle was enveloped in flames. Insurance covered the loss and after a few weeks the bookmobile was back in service.[3]

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[1]Ruth Vine Tyler, "Salt Lake County Library System History, 1938-1969," Midvale, 1969, p. 10. (Mimeographed.)

[2]Ibid., p. 11.

[3]Ibid., p. 16.

The success of the first bookmobile created the need for another vehicle. The second one was ordered from Gerstenslager Company of Wooster, Ohio and was put into service in September, 1954.

The delivery of the third bookmobile was in March, 1957. The new one took the place of the first bookmobile which was placed on a part-time and standby basis. Because of the success of bookmobile library service, the first vehicle was soon refinished and returned to a daily schedule.[1]

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[1] Ibid., p. 20

CHAPTER II

GROWTH IN BOOKMOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The second library to put bookmobiles into service was the Utah State Library Commission, which was organized in October, 1957. The main impetus behind its establishment was the enactment of the Library Services Act which made available federal funds on a state matching basis to provide library service where facilities were lacking or inadequate.

The Utah State Library Commission's policy was to use state and federal monies for the promotion of rural public library service in the state, development of regional libraries and the providing of bookmobile library service in areas lacking public library service.[1]

The Utah State Library Commission was confronted with the problem of serving the rural communities with library service. The state had a population of 820,000 people spread over 85,000 square miles, where effective library service was needed and must be promoted in spite of the great distance and sparce population. Meetings were held throughout the state with librarians, library boards and law people. It was apparent that large regional libraries could

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[1]Jack M. Tyler, An Annual Report, 1967 Utah Public Library Service (Salt Lake City: Utah State Library Commission, 1967), p. 3.

not solve the problem of distance and population. Bookmobiles seemed natural for distance, therefore it was decided to use them toprovide service to the rural areas.[1]

The Utah State Library Commission purchased its first bookmobile in June of 1958. It was used as a demonstration unit throughout the state for the next six months.[2] At this time all Utah Counties except Morgan, Salt Lake, Utah, Juab and Wasatch received a demonstration. The bookmobile demonstrations acquainted the people with the services the bookmobile provides.[3]

Many Utah counties started to contract for service. This is accomplished in the following manner: the county pays the State Library to provide bookmobile service, the State Library fully administrates it for them. In this way there is a central headquarters in the county contracting the service. The bookmobile and books are owned by the State Library and it pays the wages for librarians and clerks operating the bookmobile. The State Library provided the first year of bookmobile library service to counties without charge. The library staff demonstrates the service of a bookmobile and after the first year the counties can accept and continue the service or they can have the bookmobile

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[1]Russell L. Davis, "Utah's Public Libraries under the Library Services Act," Salt Lake City, n.d., p. 1. (Mimeographed.)

[2]Jack M. Tyler, An Annual Report, 1966 Utah Public Library Service (Salt Lake City: Utah State Library Commission, 1966), p. 2.

[3]"Service Begins," Horsefeathers (January 5, 1959), p.1.

library service discontinued. All the counties that have had a demonstration have continued with this type of service.[1]

Piute County was the first to contract for bookmobile library service, followed by Kane, Garfield, Sevier and Wayne[2] (See figure two, page twenty-three). J. Ivor Riggs was the bookmobile librarian with headquarters at Panguitch. He started to serve the counties with bookmobile library service in February, 1959, operating on a three-week schedule. The books were scarce and the patrons were permitted to take only one book. The bookmobile traveled over many country roads and for the first time many Utahns received library service.[3] In the first year of service, the bookmobile circulated 103,560 books.[4]

Soon after the State Library put their first bookmobile into service, the Salt Lake County ordered its fourth bookmobile from Gerstenslager Company. This was a larger unit and it necessitated the enlargement of the garage in Midvale to house the bookmobiles. This one replaced the first unit which was subsequently retired and sold for $400,000.[5]

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[1]Davis, "Utah's Public Libraries," p. 1.

[2]"Service Begins," Horsefeathers (January 5, 1959), p. 2.

[3]Russell L. Davis, Private interview held at Utah State Library Commission, Salt Lake City, Utah, April, 1971.

[4]Davis, "Utah's Public Libraries," p. 1.

[5]Tyler, "Salt Lake County Library System History," p. 22.

The fellow who purchased this old bookmobile remodeled it into a mobile apparel shop. He went throughout the rural areas selling women's dresses and clothing.[1]

San Juan County was the third library in the State of Utah to purchase a bookmobile (see figure two, page twenty-three). The commissioners and library board were impressed by the bookmobile demonstration that the State Library had presented in the fall of 1958. The State Library was given the responsibility of ordering and processing the books and getting the bookmobile ready to serve the people of San Juan County. The bookmobile cost $10,000 and carried 2,500 books. On June 1, 1959, Sam Perry, the bookmobile librarian, began giving library service to the people ofthe county who lived in small communities. The Bookmobile served the entire county for four years and then two permanent libraries were built in Monticello and Blanding.[2]

A month after San Juan County placed its bookmobile in service, the State Library received its second bookmobile. It was a twenty-one foot model with double doors and a book capacity of 2,500 to 3,000 volumes. Service began in Tooele, Duchesne and Rich Counties. Although these counties were at different location in the State of Utah, a bookmobile was

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[1]Ruth Vine Tyler, Private interview held at the South Salt Lake Branch Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, March, 1971.

[2]"San Juan . . . and the Open Road," Horsefeathers I (January 5, 1959), p. 3.

provided and service began in July, 1959. The headquarters for this bookmobile was in Salt Lake City at the newly remodeled coach house behind the Utah State Historical Society building, which earlier had been the Governor's Mansion. This bookmobile was driven by Edward Andrews who spent three long days of one week in Duchesne County; the next week he was in Tooele County for two days; and the two remaining days were spent in Rich County.

Rich County had no library service prior to the bookmobile, and during the first year 26,000 books were circulated to 1,800 people.[1]

In September, 1959, the Salt Lake City Library Board met and decided to purchase a bookmobile. The Board estimated it would cost $24,000 for the unit and the book collection. The Board approved the motion to buy the bookmobile by a seven to one vote.[2]

A month later the Salt Lake City Library Board met again. At this meeting they decided to purchase two bookmobiles instead of one. They had discovered it would take two to adequately serve Salt Lake City.[3] Salt Lake Library had to wait six months for the bookmobiles.

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[1]Davis, Interview.

[2]"Library Board Okays Buying of Bookmobile," Deseret News, September 18, 1959, p. B8.

[3]"Salt Lake Library to Buy Second Bookmobile," Deseret News, October 7, 1959, p. B9.

In the meantime the State Library purchased and placed its third bookmobile in Weber County, with Bruce Wallace as the bookmobile librarian. He started to give library service to the people of the county on December 7, 1959. The headquarters for the bookmobile were established in the morgue of the county building; it was later moved to the Moench Building on Jefferson Street which was being abandoned by Weber College.[1]

The two bookmobiles for the Salt Lake City Library arrived in April, 1960. Each unit cost $10,000 and carried a book collection of 2,500 books. They were placed on display at 213 South Main Street during National Library Week.[2] It took about a month for the library to prepare the vehicles for library service. The State Library ordered and processed the books and the two bookmobiles went into operation in May, 1960, with Howard Brown and Frank McPhil as drivers, and Martha Stewart and Emma Allen as librarians. These bookmobiles were scheduled to stop at schools and various places throughout the city which were more than one mile from a permanent library. They were scheduled to make thirty-six stops.[3]

In the summer of 1960, the bookmobile in the southern counties of the state was being used extensively. To provide

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[1]Davis, Interview.

[2]"New Bookmobile Goes on Display Today," The Salt Lake Tribune, April 8, 1960, p. C8.

[3]"Salt Lake to Start Using Bookmobiles," Deseret News, May 20, 1960, p. A18.

better service, it became necessary to place a new bookmobile to serve Piute, Wayne and Sevier Counties. The older bookmobile served Kane, Garfield and Iron Counties. Heber Christiansen was the bookmobile librarian for the new unit with headquarters in the Richfield Public Library in Richfield. The public librarian, Rachael Y. Dale was afraid the bookmobile would take some of her patrons because it stopped one day every other week at various locations throughout the city of Richfield. Instead of taking her patrons, it created interest in reading among the people. The circulation of the public library increased and the County Commissioners increased her salary and also increased her book budget.[1]

Box Elder and Uintah Counties became interested in bookmobile library service in the spring of 1961, (see figure two, page twenty-three). With these two counties requesting service, it became necessary to make some changes. There was a need for two more bookmobiles, one would serve Box Elder and Rich Counties and the second one would serve Duchesne and Uintah, the third unit would serve Tooele. The two new bookmobiles went to Brigham City and Grantsville while the older bookmobile went to Roosevelt.

Bookmobile library service started in Box Elder County on April 11, 1961, with Charles Bright as the bookmobile librarian. The following week he went to Rich

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[1]Rachael Y. Dale, Private interview held at Richfield Public Library, Richfield, Utah, June, 1962.

County, giving service to both counties. His headquarters were in the Box Elder County Building, but were later moved to a rented remodeled building in Brigham.[1]

A section of Box Elder County is sparsely populated and the bookmobile driver had to travel 200 miles to serve the two small communities of Grouse Creek and Yost. It took most of the day, over rough road, to get to these communities. When the bookmobile arrived, all the people of the community came out to get their books. One woman came from a ranch thirty-five miles away to get her books. She was so thrilled to see a library that she went home and brought her husband to see the bookmobile. When the bookmobile librarian had completed giving library service to the people of Grouse Creek, it was too late to return to his headquarters in Brigham City, so the people of Grouse Creek gave him his meals and a place to stay for the night. Early in the morning he returned to Brigham City.[2]

The older bookmobile was placed in Roosevelt and gave service to Duchesne and Uintah Counties. The headquarters was a small supply room at the Roosevelt Junior High School. It was later moved to a rented, remodeled building in the City of Roosevelt. Don Lingreen was the bookmobile librarian. He was with the State Library for a year and then was replaced by Walter Martin.

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[1]Russell L. Davis, Private interview held at Utah State Library Commission, Salt Lake City, Utah, April, 1971.

[2]Russell L. Davis, "The Bookmobile Story," A speech presented to Utah Library Association members at Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, March, 1971.

This left Tooele County with one bookmobile. It was the sixth bookmobile that the State Library purchased. Jim Greenhalgh was the bookmobile librarian and he had his headquarters at Grantsville.[1]

The bookmobile in Weber County was being used beyond its capacity; to provide adequate service, it was necessary to add another vehicle. A new librarian, Paul Butters was hired in June, 1961, to operate the seventh bookmobile purchased by the State Library. It served the people on the west side of the county. The older bookmobile served the people on the east side of the county. These bookmobiles went to the schools, subdivisions and the small communities throughout Weber County. It was decided to operate the bookmobile on Saturdays. Joseph Allen was hired to operate one unit serving the eastern communities while Elwin Slater took the other vehicle and provided library service for the western part of Weber County.

Daggett County was the next to request a bookmobile. This is a sparsely populated county and the bookmobile serving Duchesne and Uintah was used to provide library service to Daggett County. Service began July, 1963, and continued for one year; then in 1964, the commissioners voted to discontinue the bookmobile. However, the people wanted the library service, and a year later the bookmobiles started to serve Daggett County again.

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[1]Davis, Interview

The bookmobiles for the State Library give service all year. In the summer of 1963, a new librarian replaced the regular librarian for Daggett County while he went on vacation. The road to Manila was a rough, winding, dirt road. When the new librarian arrived in Manila, he did not know the location of the church where he was scheduled to stop. He stopped at a service station just long enough to inquire about the location of the church and when he returned to the bookmobile, it was filled with patrons selecting their books. They happened to see it at the service station and were eager to check out more library books. They were so excited they could not wait until it went to the church.[1]

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[1]Davis, Interview.

CHAPTER III

LARGER BOOKMOBILES AND CONTINUOUS GROWTH IN BOOKMOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

During the years 1964 and 1965, no bookmobiles were placed in service in Utah. In the fall of 1965, the State Library contracted with Williamsen Body and Equipment Company of Salt Lake City, to build two bookmobiles. These were much larger than the previous vehicles. They were large enough to hold 5,000 books which was twice the amount carried by bookmobiles in the past. They were built at a cost of $21,661 each.

They featured the latest in bookmobile design. Some of the features included high density nylon floor coverings which reduced noise and maintenance cost. The librarian's work area was redesigned to offer greater ease in handling the public and performing work associated with bookmobile service. A ramp for entering and leaving instead of steps was being tested for the first time in Utah (later the ramps were taken out and the steps were replaced) and outside lights were attached to the vehicle.[1]

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[1]Jack M. Tyler, "Bookmobile Multiplied," Horsefeathers, I (December, 1966), p. 4.

Davis County became interested in bookmobile library service in the fall of 1965. Commissioner Stanley Smoot sent a letter to Russell Davis, Director of the State Library, requesting service. Williamsen Body and Equipment Company was nearing completion of the first larger type bookmobile which was to be placed in Davis County. (See Figure one, page nineteen). The headquarters for this new bookmobile library service was in the basement of the Davis County Public Library. Before the bookmobile started service, there was a meeting with the Presidents of all the Davis County Schools Parent Teacher Associations. They were asked to help the bookmobile librarian circulate books in the various subdivisions throughout the county.[1]

The bookmobile started to serve the county on January 3, 1966, with Paris Cobb as bookmobile librarian. As it circulated throughout the various subdivisions, people stood in line, waiting to get in and check out books. At Sunset the line was two blocks long; there were 1,700 books circulated in one afternoon, with 1,100 books being returned from the previous week's circulation.[2]

The demand for bookmobile library service in Davis County was so great that in March, 1966, a second bookmobile was put into service to take care of the patrons who liked

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[1]Davis, Interview.

[2]Jack M. Tyler, "One Enough," Horsefeathers, I (February, 1968), p. 2.

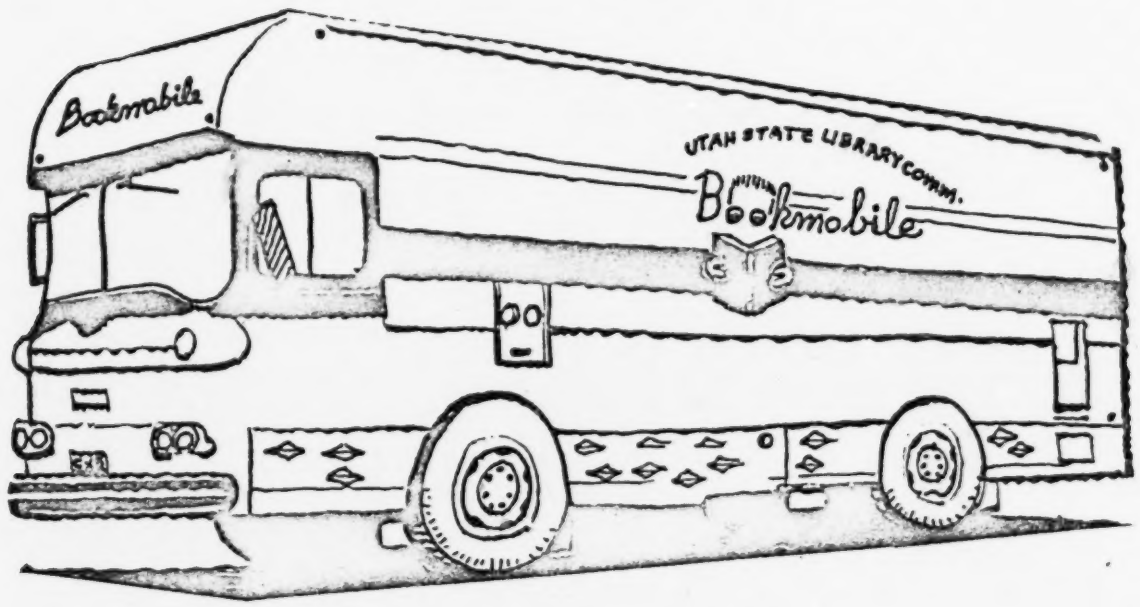

Fig. 1.--A Drawing of the Large Bookmobiles Built by Williamsen Body and Equipment Company of Salt Lake City.

this type of library service.[1] Wayne Spencer was the bookmobile librarian for the second bookmobile. Both of these bookmobiles were kept busy during the week as they went to the various stops in the county. Bookmobile service was not provided to the schools, but on Saturdays the vehicle went to the shopping centers in Davis County. To relieve the drivers on Saturdays, Kenneth Mott and Val Ball were hired to operate the bookmboiles. Mr. Ball drove the bookmobile to Sunset, Layton, Kaysville and Clearfield while Mr. Mott drove the other bookmobile to the two Bountiful shopping centers, Five Points and Pages Lane.

A year later Paris Cobb accepted a position at the State Library Headquarters. He was replaced by Arlyn Proctor. Wayne Spencer went to Brigham City to operate the bookmobile serving Rich County and parts of Box Elder County. He was replaced by Cecil Barton.

The first week of June, 1966, three more Utah counties requested bookmobile library service. They were Millard, Sanpete and Washington Counties. Lennis Anderson started the bookmobile in Millard and Sanpete Counties, (see figure two, page twenty-three).

A year later, on June 15, 1967, there was need for another bookmobile to serve Millard and Sanpete Counties. A unit was purchased and it served Sanpete County with head quarters in the basement of the Ephraim Public Library at Ephraim. Chris Perry became the librarian. The other unit

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[1]Jack M. Tyler, "One Wasn't Enough," Horsefeathers, I (May, 1968), p. 2.

served Millard County with headquarters at a remodeled store in Delta. Karnel Perry became the librarian. Lennis Anderson, the previous librarian for the two counties, went to Weber County.[1]

Another bookmobile was purchased to serve Washington and Iron Counties, with headquarters established in the basement of the Cedar City Public Library. Barry Porter started bookmobile library service in these two counties.[2]

The years from 1967 to 1971, no bookmobiles were placed into service in the state, because of inadequate funds for the purchase of bookmobiles and book collections.[3]

At the present time the Utah State Library Commission has twelve bookmobiles operating in seventeen counties.[4] The headquarters for these units are located at Farmington, Davis County, and Ogden, Weber County with two units at each city. Cedar City, Iron County; Richfield, Sevier County; Brigham, Box Elder County; Ephraim, Sanpete County; Delta, Millard County; Roosevelt, Duchesne County, and Grantsville, Tooele County each having one unit.[5]

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[1]Russell L. Davis, Interview.

[2]Jack M. Tyler, "Cooperation," Horsefeathers, II (May, 1967), 2.

[3]Russell L. Davis, Interview.

[4]Jack M. Tyler, "Sixty-four Per Cent Now Being Served," Horsefeathers, I (May, 1966), 1.

[5]Arlene Grover, "Why the State Library?" Horsefeathers, I (August, 1966), 5.

The Salt Lake City Public Library has the two bookmobiles they originally started with, but the stops throughout the city have increased from thirty-six to fifty.[1] The Salt Lake County Library is still operating four bookmobiles, but since 1966 one of the units was used only during the summer months, while the other three are in operation during the complete year.[2] San Juan County is providing service with the same bookmobile they purchased in 1959. Figure two, page twenty-three, is a map showing the counties which have established bookmobile library service in the State of Utah.

It may be difficult to predict the trends and the future of bookmobile library service. According to the United States Office of Education statistics, by 1974, a total population in this country of about 220,000,000 people and a total of 300,000,000 some time before the year 2000 are predicted. In 1961, these same statistics showed 18,000,000 people without library service. Some progress has been made since then.[3] Utah will also continue to increase in population, possibly faster than the average of the United States.

Today in Utah there are many people without library service. There are counties which would like to have bookmobile library service, but finances will not allow an increase in bookmobiles.

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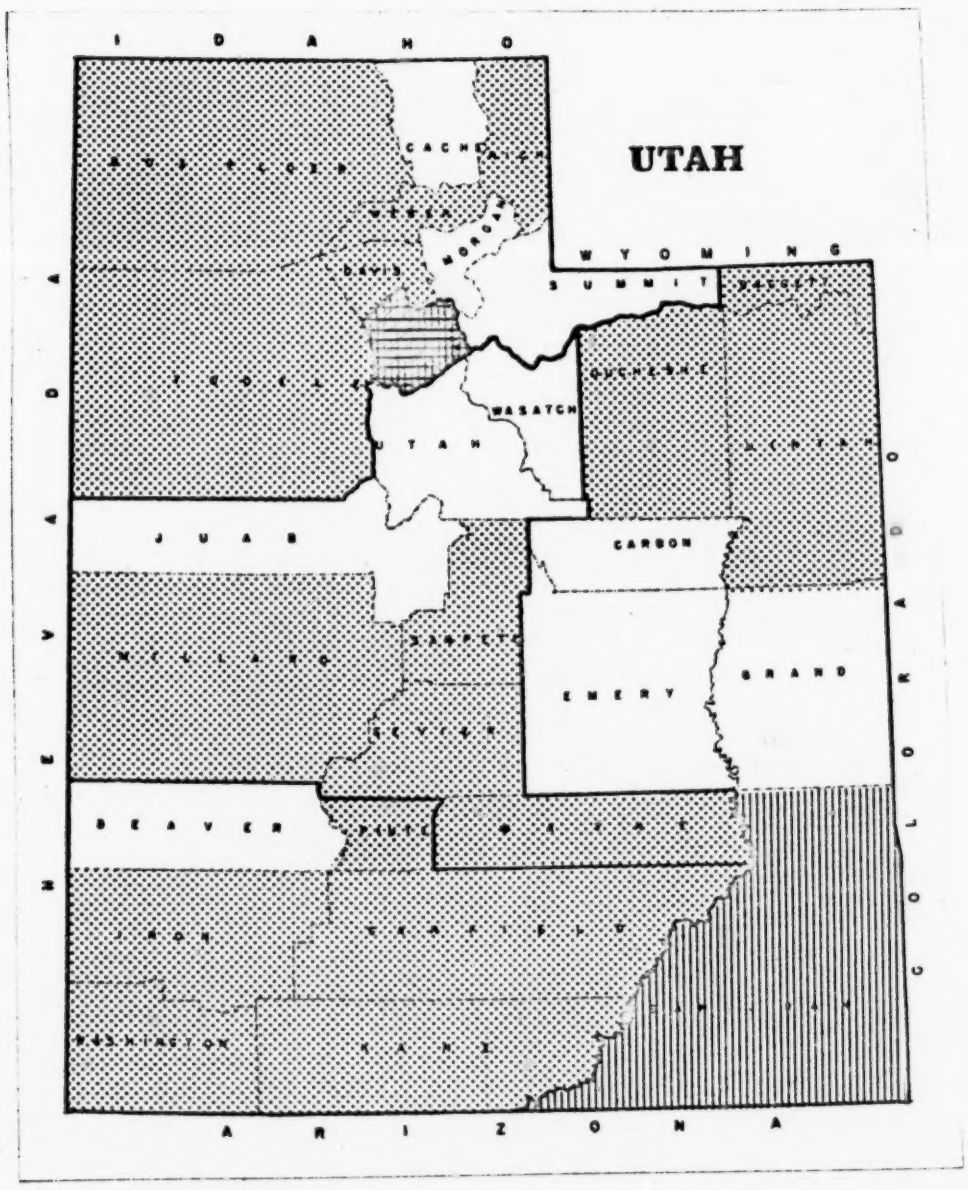
[1] Annual Report, Salt Lake City Public Library, 1969 (Salt Lake City: Salt Lake City Public Library, December, 1969), p. 3.

[2] Ruth Vine Tyler, Interview.

[3] Brown, Bookmobiles and Bookmobile Service, p. 38.



Counties served by State Library Commission

County served by Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County Public Libraries

County served by San Juan County Library

Counties where Bookmobile Service is not available at present

Fig. 2.--A Map of Utah Showing the Counties with Bookmobile Library Service.

As more people come into the State and the population increases, bookmobile library service will undoubtedly continue to help fill the void.[1]

In the future, librarians will find larger and larger bookmobile units. Specialized vehicles will circulate audio-visual materials such as records, tapes, films, tape recorders and projection equipment. There will be greater automation of equipment, such as automatic charging, conveyor belts for book-loading and intercommunications systems. Bookmobiles will have better heating and lighting, air conditioning; some units may carry tables and chairs, and possibly other innovations which will make them more serviceable.[2]

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[1]Davis, Interview.

[2]Brown, Bookmobiles and Bookmobile Service, p. 41.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Bookmobile service in the State of Utah is for the most part new. It is modern and progressive and has increased rapidly in the past few years. Prior to bookmobiles, a few people of the state received books through the mail from an established library or books were taken by car or truck to a community store or post office for circulation to the people of the community.

Bookmobile library service began in 1947, when Ruth Vine Tyler suggested to the Salt Lake County Public Library Board that there was a need for bookmobiles in Salt Lake County. The first one was purchased from Williamsen Body and Equipment Company in Ogden and placed into service in 1949. The people received this type of service with enthusiasm. The second one was placed into service in 1954, the third in 1957, and the fourth in 1960.

The Utah State Library was organized in 1957, and because of the success of the bookmobiles in Salt Lake County, it became interested in bookmobile library service, hoping to provide library service to the sparsely populated areas of Utah. The Salt Lake City Public Library became interested in bookmobiles to provide service to the fast growing areas of Salt Lake City. San Juan County Library was interested in

bookmobiles to serve the areas outside of the two cities in their county, Blanding and Monticello.

There was a rapid increase of bookmobiles in 1959. The Salt Lake City Public Library placed two bookmobiles into service throughout Salt Lake City. San Juan County Library began bookmobile service in that county. The State Library demonstrated bookmobile library service to ten Utah counties. A bookmobile was placed in Sevier, Piute, Iron, Garfield, Kane and Wayne Counties. Another unit was sent to Duchesne, Rich, and Tooele Counties, and a third bookmobile started service in Weber County.

The interest in bookmobile library service continued; two more counties, Uintah and Box Elder, wanted service. To provide better coverage to the existing counties, it became necessary for the State Library to purchase three more bookmobiles. This was done in 1961, and the bookmobiles were changed around. One provided service to Sevier, Wayne, and Piute Counties, another to Uintah and Duchesne Counties, the third to Box Elder and Rich Counties. The fourth unit went to Tooele and the fifth and sixth units to Weber County. In 1962, Daggett County requested library service and the bookmobile stationed at Roosevelt served this county.

It was three years before another bookmobile was placed into service. In the fall of 1965, the State Library contracted with the Williamsen Body and Equipment Company of Salt Lake to build two bookmobiles. These were larger units and would carry twice as many books as prior bookmobiles.

In January, 1966, these two larger units went into service in Davis County. In June, 1966, Millard, Sanpete and Washington Counties requested library service and the State Library purchased a bookmobile to provide service for these three counties. One bookmobile could not adequately serve them and two bookmobiles were purchased; one was placed in Sanpete County and the second one was placed in Washington and Iron County. The old unit served Millard County.

Today there are nineteen bookmobiles serving nineteen of the twenty-nine Utah counties.

If bookmobile library service is to continue in the State of Utah, evaluation is necessary. Bookmobile library service must keep up with social change. There are those who believe that bookmobiles have had their day and are declining in value. Statistics indicate that they are not declining in number. The rate of increase lessened soon after the first impact of the Library Service Act of 1957, but the total number will probably increase indefinitely. This rate of increase will possibly be due to the increase in population, the shifting of people from one location to another, and a continued effort to provide library service to people who have no library. So long as we have readers and the necessity for equalization of library opportunity in any part of Utah, we will have need for bookmobiles. The bookmobiles in Utah are here to stay.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

TABLE I

CIRCULATION STATISTICS OF UTAH STATE
LIBRARY COMMISSION BOOKMOBILES

Counties	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Box Elder	--	--	55,325	75,848	65,536	69,547
Daggett	--	--	--	--	6,536	6,495
Davis	--	--	--	--	--	--
Duchesne	17,532	45,361	40,751	58,012	57,474	54,771
Garfield	13,395	19,875	23,438	20,931	20,900	23,735
Iron	4,795	13,852	15,876	14,628	12,323	10,342
Kane	11,561	17,637	19,774	22,639	18,348	15,345
Millard	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oneida (Ida)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Piute	5,860	10,777	12,034	13,217	13,761	12,955
Rich	15,874	23,784	18,443	18,218	17,593	20,143
Sanpete	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sevier	11,531	23,386	37,640	36,205	37,389	38,663
Tooele	13,257	33,471	35,555	40,851	47,614	53,609
Uintah	--	--	24,516	46,957	45,718	44,431
Wash.	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wayne	5,588	8,863	13,770	14,839	16,406	18,350
Weber	--	136,293	143,889	145,838	159,504	206,320
Total	99,393	333,299	441,011	508,173	519,102	573,806

TABLE I (Continued)

Counties	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Box Elder	70,063	81,046	85,666	86,516	93,108	101,428
Daggett	--	6,774	5,410	6,387	5,980	5,075
Davis	--	176,707	152,748	169,536	167,601	168,564
Duchesne	56,502	50,912	49,672	49,253	43,578	42,958
Garfield	27,335	21,134	19,758	21,388	24,131	23,893
Iron	11,596	8,953	7,533	9,610	12,143	12,611
Kane	13,108	11,356	11,583	10,000	8,257	7,163
Millard	--	31,116	48,618	75,972	74,392	83,860
Oneida (Ida)	--	1,949	3,793	3,002	2,679	2,971
Piute	14,117	12,349	11,933	10,546	9,949	11,359
Rich	20,125	19,713	15,421	18,547	22,183	21,046
Sanpete	--	40,853	49,297	77,097	77,627	71,371
Sevier	36,574	31,885	34,513	37,249	39,918	37,940
Tooele	58,410	72,839	71,005	71,131	67,862	61,016
Uintah	36,607	33,098	36,788	37,891	35,049	31,352
Wash.	--	13,907	28,098	38,412	41,261	40,130
Wayne	18,040	15,721	17,657	18,501	18,421	17,754
Weber	268,764	283,490	305,855	269,109	261,974	265,582
Total	631,241	912,902	955,348	1,010,147	1,006,113	1,006,073

APPENDIX II

TABLE 2

CIRCULATION STATISTICS OF THE SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILES

Year	Bookmobile Number 1	2	3	4	Total
1949	40,000				40,000
1950	75,756				75,756
1951	77,430				77,430
1952	75,152				75,152
1953	73,352				73,352
1954	88,719	8,678			96,397
1955	86,882	73,399			160,281
1956	87,637	86,863			174,500
1957	25,924	81,387	75,707		171,918
1958	83,521	86,981	86,074		256,576
1959	79,740	83,477	95,383		248,600
1960	77,410	76,634	90,152	55,704	299,990
1961	83,853	79,736	104,847	89,240	357,678
1962	88,370	73,459	95,502	76,743	334,074
1963	88,465	82,944	93,422	74,249	339,032
1964	88,583	88,602	96,201	70,967	344,353
1965	78,890	81,239	87,484	68,961	316,574
1966	77,812	16,974	82,201	86,174	263,161
1967	76,223	17,430	74,950	75,707	244,311
1968	64,248	17,361	70,963	78,421	230,993

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Year	1	2	3	4	Total
		Bookmobile Number			
1969	73,998	26,678	70,030	75,295	246,001
1970	71,574	20,738	78,467	70,895	235,674

APPENDIX III

TABLE 3

CIRCULATION STATISTICS OF SALT LAKE CITY
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILES

Year	Bookmobile Circulation
1960	86,679
1961	199,886
1962	165,418
1963	130,541
1964	not available
1965	102,775
1966	83,787
1967	70,099
1968	75,102
1969	81,134
1970	82,993

APPENDIX IV

TABLE 4

CIRCULATION STATISTICS OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE

Year	Bookmobile Circulation
1959	10,960
1960	29,400
1961	26,000
1962	25,924
1963	26,806
1964	30,801
1965	33,334
1966	26,833
1967	21,073
1968	16,605
1969	24,657
1970	21,295

APPENDIX V

TABLE 5

THE DATE BOOKMOBILES STARTED LIBRARY SERVICE
IN THE COUNTIES OF UTAH

Counties	Date
Salt Lake	April, 1949
Garfield	February 1, 1959
Piute	February 9, 1959
Sevier	February 11, 1959
Wayne	March 4, 1959
Kane	March 5, 1959
Rich	May 11, 1959
San Juan	June 1, 1959
Duchesne	July 1, 1959
Tooele	July 15, 1959
Iron	July 17, 1959
Weber	December 7, 1959
Box Elder	April 11, 1961
Uintah	May 15, 1961
Daggett	June 1, 1964
Davis	January 3, 1966
Sanpete	May 2, 1966
Millard	May 9, 1966
Washington	June 6, 1966

A HISTORY OF BOOKMOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE STATE OF UTAH

Val L. Ball

ABSTRACT

The history of bookmobiles in the State of Utah began in 1947, when Ruth Vine Tyler suggested to the Salt Lake County Library Board there was a need for this type of library service in Salt Lake County. The Board purchased the first bookmobile and it began serving the public in 1949. The second unit was purchased in 1954 and a third and larger bookmobile was put into service in 1957.

The Utah State Library was organized in 1957, and it began to purchase bookmobiles as did Salt Lake City Public Library and San Juan Public Library. During the next few years, the number of bookmobiles increased rapidly. In 1959, there were six bookmobiles purchased and placed into service. Of these, three were purchased by the State Library, two by the Salt Lake Public Library and one by San Juan Public Library. The State Library purchased five more bookmobiles and Salt Lake County purchased one, between 1960 and 1965.

In 1965, the State Library purchased larger bookmobiles which had a capacity of 5,000 books. These units carried twice as many books as the previous bookmobiles. They were

built by Williamsen Body and Equipment Company in Salt Lake City. From 1965, to the present, the State Library purchased seven of the larger units. Some were used to replace the older bookmobiles.

Today there are nineteen bookmobiles operating in nineteen of the twenty-nine Utah Counties.